1: Murphy, Robert F. and Buell Quain. The Trumai Indians of Central Brazil. Foreword by Charles Wagley. Monographs of the American Ethnological Society, No. 24. Locust Valley, New York: J.J. Augustin Publisher, 1955.

Pp. xii, 108; 4 plates; 1 map.

Yale: Nk10 Am39d 24.

/This brief but well organized monograph on the Trumai Indians of the Upper Xingu River area in Brazil is a posthumous analysis and interpretation of Quain's field notes of 1938 by an equally competent fellow anthropologist, Murphy. It contains keen analyses of the personality, ethos, life cycle, and interpersonal attitude and behavior of the Trumai, and adequate but less extensive accounts of their material culture and religion. This source mainly relies on the data gathered by intensive participant observation techniques but is also supplemented by library research of Murphy. Although Quain did not learn the Trumai language until he reached the field and could not therefore use systematic interview techniques to gather his data, his keen perception, sophisticated observation techniques, and cordial relations with the natives resulted in interesting and seemingly reliable data on psycho-cultural aspects of the Trumai people. Both

1: Murphy, Robert F. and Buell Quain.

Quain and Murphy frequently comment on possible bias of their data when there was any doubt about its reliability as well as on the natives' reactions to the ethnographer, which are helpful in interpreting data.

This is one of the few sources available on the Trumai, a disappearing culture, and may be the best on the social structure of the Trumai. /

Field date: 1938
Analyst: Hesung Chun Koh

Evaluation: Ethnologists-4,5
Processed in 1965